

Boom Mounted Spinnaker Pole Launch System

There are many ways to store and launch the spinnaker pole. The boom mounted system works particularly well for dinghies and small keel boats where you want to keep weight off the bow as much as possible. This system has found wide-spread favor in the South Coast 21 fleet. The project can be done in about an hour or two and requires less than \$10 worth of materials. It can be done without removing the boom from the mast.

Materials Needed

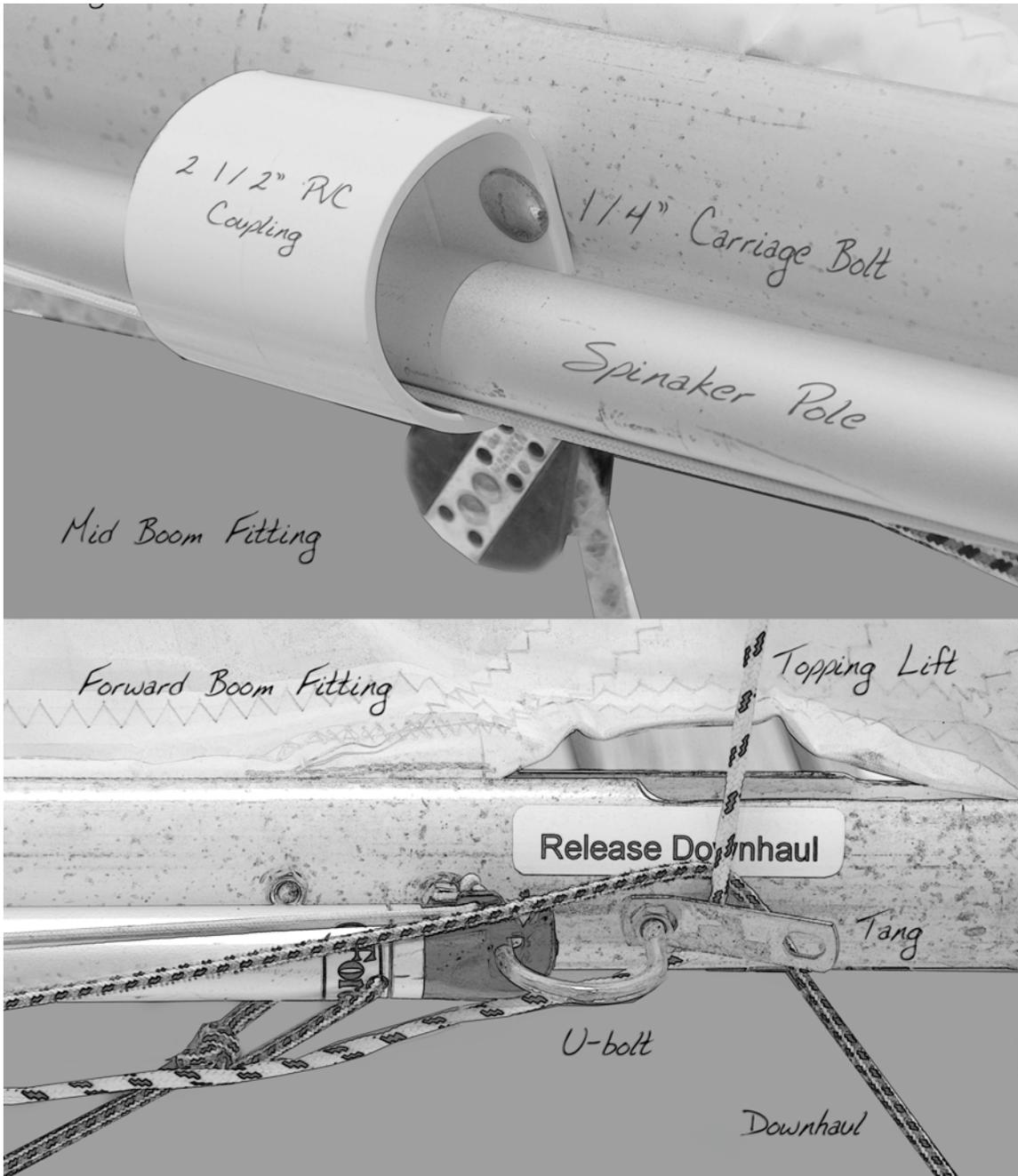
1. Two 2 _ inch PVC couplings.
2. Two _ inch by 2 _ inch carriage bolts with washers and bolt.
3. Two _ inch U-bolts.

Tools Needed

1. Power drill and _ inch bit.
2. Open end adjustable wrench.
3. Hack saw.
4. Metal file.

Start at the forward end of the boom and drill a _ inch hole in the middle of the boom at the level of the cut out for the bolt rope. Try to keep it level. If this is difficult for you, simply mark the boom equal distances from the gooseneck fitting and drill from the outside in both directions. Put the U-bolt in the hole and mark out the second hole. This should allow the U-bolt to be placed through the holes and bolted in place. I put a little LocTite on before tightening the bolts to keep them in place. Repeat the same procedure for the other side of the boom. The U-bolts come with a metal tang which I have placed on the forward bolt as a place to put the topping lift and pole downhaul to keep them out of the way when the spinnaker is not being flown. Be sure to warn your crew to remove those lines before setting the pole or it could be a real mess. I have added a warning label (see illustration below).

Next you will put in place the holders for the spinnaker pole on either side of the boom. I found that the fit is a bit better if the PVC coupling is more D shaped. This can be accomplished by heating the fitting in boiling water for a few minutes and then pressing it onto a flat surface. Drill two _ inch holes in a horizontal fashion about two inches apart on the mid boom. Drill two matching holes in the two PVC couplings. Place the carriage bolts through the first coupling, the boom and the second PVC coupling. Place the washers and nuts and tighten. If there is excess bolt coming through the nut, cut it off with a hack saw and file flat. Again, a bit of LockTite will help keep the nuts on. The result will look similar to the illustrations below.



Top: Mid boom fitting made from two PVC couplings.

Bottom: Forward boom fitting made from two inch U-bolts.